CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   An apparatus comprising:

2   an encoder to encode data having a first format into a string of data having a

3   second format, the first and second formats being different;

4   a packetizer coupled to the encoder to packetize the string of data into at

5   least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format; and

6   a decoder coupled to the packetizer to decode the at least one packet back

7   into the data having the first format.

1   2.   The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the decoder comprises a detector to detect

2   the second format and a converter to convert the string of data back into the

3   data having the first format.

1   3.   The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the at least one packet is transmitted to a

2   network supporting the second format.

1   4.   The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the network comprises an instant

2   messaging (IM) infrastructure.

1   5.   The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the second format is an American Standard

2   Code of Information Interchange (ASCII) format.

1   6.   The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the data having the first format is ink input

2   data.

1   7.   The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the ink input data is obtained from is one

2   of a touch-screen, a digitizer, a tablet, and a mouse.

1   8.   An apparatus comprising:

2   An encoder to encode data having a first format into a string of data having a

3   second format, the first and second formats being different; and

4   a packetizer coupled to the encoder to packetize the string of data into at

5   least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format, the

6   at least one packet being transmitted to a network, the network transmitting

7   the packet to a decoder.

1   9.   The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the decoder comprises a detector to detect

2   the second format.

1   10.   The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the decoder decodes the string of data

2   back into the data having the first format.

1   11.   A method comprising:

2   encoding data having a first format into a string of data having a second

3   format, the first and second formats being different;

4   packetizing the string of data into at least one packet having a header, the

5   header identifying the first format; and

6   decoding the at least one packet back into the data having the first format.

1   12. The method of claim 11 wherein the decoding comprises detecting the second

2   format and converting the string of data into the data having the first format.

1   13. The method of claim 11 wherein the at least one packet is transmitted to a

2   network supporting the second format.

1   14. The method of claim 13 wherein the network comprises an instant messaging

2   (IM) infrastructure.

1   15. The method of claim 11 wherein the second format is an American Standard

2   Code of Information Interchange (ASCII) format.

1   16. The method of claim 11 wherein the data having the first format is ink input

2   data.

1   17. The method of claim 16 wherein the ink input data is obtained from is one of a

2   touch-screen, a digitizer, a tablet, and a mouse.

1   18. A method comprising:

2   Encoding data having a first format into a string of data having a second

3   format, the first and second formats being different; and

4   packetizing string of data into at least one packet having a header, the

5   header identifying the first format, the at least one packet being transmitted

6   to a network, the network transmitting the packet to a decoder.

1   19. The method of claim 18 wherein decoding comprises detecting the second

2   format.

1   20. The method of claim 19 wherein decoding comprises decoding the string of data

2   back into the data having the first format.

1   21.   A computer program product comprising:

2   a computer usable medium having computer program code embodied therein, the

3   computer program product having:

4   computer readable program code for encoding data having a first format into

5   a string of data having a second format, the first and second formats being different;

6   computer readable program code for packetizing the string of data into at

7   least one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format; and

8   computer readable program code for decoding the at least one packet back

9   into the data having the first format.

1   22.   The computer program product of claim 11 wherein the computer readable

2   program code for decoding comprises computer readable program code for

3   detecting the second format and converting the string of data into the data having

4   the first format.

1   23. The computer program product of claim 11 wherein the at least one packet is

2   transmitted to a network supporting the second format.

1   24. The computer program product of claim 13 wherein the network comprises an

2   instant messaging (IM) infrastructure.

1   25. The computer program product of claim 11 wherein the second format is an

2   American Standard Code of Information Interchange (ASCII) format.

1   26. The computer program product of claim 11 wherein the data having the first

2   format is an ink-input data.

1   27. The computer program product of claim 16 wherein the ink input data is

2   obtained from is one of a touch-screen, a digitizer, a tablet, and a mouse.

1   28. A computer program product comprising:

2   a computer usable medium having computer program code embodied therein, the computer

3   program product having:

4   computer readable program code for encoding data having a first format into

5   a string of data having a second format, the first and second formats being

6   different; and

7   computer readable program code for packetizing string of data into at least

8   one packet having a header, the header identifying the first format, the at

9   least one packet being transmitted to a network, the network transmitting the

10   packet to a decoder.

1 29. The computer program product of claim 18 wherein computer readable program

2   code for decoding comprises computer readable program code for detecting the

3   second format.

1 30. The computer program product of claim 19 wherein computer readable program

2   code for decoding comprises computer readable program code for decoding the

3   string of data back into the data having the first format.